



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eric Maher
Senior Hazardous Substances Scientist
Environmental Analysis, Regulations and Audits

FROM: Enad Yemut, Unit Chief
Federal Facilities Unit A
Office of Military Facilities

DATE: September 14, 2004

SUBJECT: FINAL NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY ACT EXEMPTION ON PROPOSED INTERIM REMOVAL
ACTION (IRA) AT SITE 31, VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE (VAFB)

Attached is the Final Notice of Exemption for the proposed IRA at VAFB Site 31, Former Missile Launcher 576-C. The Draft Final Notice of Exemption was approved on June 22, 2004 for public review, and was public noticed to solicit public comments from August 9, 2004, through September 8, 2004. No public comments were received during this public review period.

Please review the attached document for completeness and file accordingly with the Office of Planning and Research. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Quang Than at (714) 484- 5352.

Attachment

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program
Office of Military Facilities
Southern California Operations
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630

Project Title: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Interim Removal Action at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 31, Missile Launcher 576-C, Vandenberg Air Force Base

Project Location – Specific: In northern half of Vandenberg Air Force Base, about 2 miles north of San Antonio Creek, on Pike Road

Project Location – City: Unincorporated, near Lompoc **Project Location – County:** Santa Barbara

Description of Project:

Site 31, Missile Launcher 576-C, is a decommissioned missile launching site located in northern Vandenberg Air Force Base, about 2 miles north of San Antonio Creek, on Pike Road. In this removal action, about 1,987 cubic yards of soils contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, and arsenic will be excavated and disposed of at an appropriate landfill. Standard engineering and construction practices, such as the use of water spray to control dust, will be used to minimize potential environmental impacts during excavation activities. Perimeter air monitoring for public safety, and personal air monitoring for worker safety will be conducted. Excavated soils will be placed into a designated, plastic lined, soil storage area. Soils will be covered with plastic, and temporarily stockpiled while the results of waste characterization tests are pending. The excavation will be backfilled with clean fill, regraded, and seeded.

Samples will be collected from the sides and the bottom of the excavated areas and tested to confirm that contaminated soils have been removed and that site specific cleanup goals have been achieved. Final cleanup goals have been established as 0.22 mg/kg for PCBs, 3.9 pg/G for dioxins, and 22.0 mg/kg for arsenic. These values were established based upon consultation with a DTSC toxicologist. They represent a site specific application of the U.S. EPA Region IX Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) and they are the criteria for unrestricted/residential use.

The time necessary to complete this activity is estimated to be two months. Cleanup activities will be conducted in the summer in order to avoid winter rains and the potential for any surface water runoff. The depths of excavations are generally between one and two feet.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Department of the Air Force
Vandenberg Air Force Base
Contact: Ms. Beatrice Kephart

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(A));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____
☒ General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Exemption Title: With certainty, no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

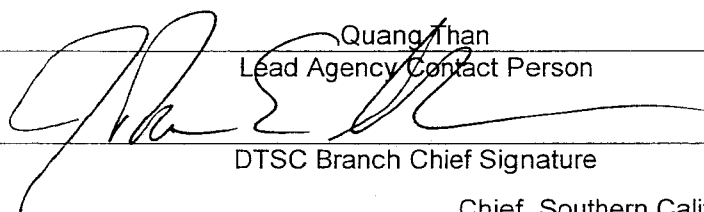
The proposed remedial action has only limited activities. It will not create any significant environment impact because:

1. The site is located within the boundaries of Vandenberg AFB, an isolated, active military installation. The area in which Site 31 is located is in a remote area in the northern half of the base. There is no access available to the area by the general public, and access by non-essential personnel will be restricted during soil removal activities. The nearest potential residential receptors at the Military Family Housing are more than five miles away, and the nearest city, City of Lompoc, is about ten miles away.
2. The soil removal will mostly take place in or adjacent to previously disturbed areas such as buildings and paved areas. Two ecological surveys were conducted 1996 and 1997 by the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara for Vandenberg AFB. The results of these surveys suggest that habitats are not located adjacent to the buildings and roads and therefore the soil removal will have minimal impact to the surrounding habitats.
3. Site 31 was previously cleared by Base Cultural Resource Department and Base Civil Engineers (for potential impact on cultural and paleontological resources) to conduct excavation in the remedial investigations (phases I and II conducted in 1993 and 1996 through 1998; and supplemental conducted in 2000 and 2003) and a removal action (conducted in 2001). According to Kathy Gerber, Vandenberg AFB site contact for the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Site 31 is not suspected to be located in an area known for cultural and paleontological resources. The contractor will obtain a site-specific work permit or dig permit from the Base, which requires clearance from the Base Cultural Resources for Native American burial sites, archaeological, historical, etc, before soil removal begins.
4. The volume of contaminated soil to be removed is relatively small at approximately 1,987 cubic yards and the contaminated soils to be removed are not of a reactive or explosive nature. Excavated materials will be handled by licensed and registered transporters, in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The trucks will be inspected and cleaned prior to leaving the site, including pressure washing of the tires if necessary, to be sure that they will not spread contaminated soil on the roads.
5. The transportation route to the disposal site consists of well maintained, all-purpose state highways and county roads. Leaving the Base at the Lompoc gate, the excavated soil will be transported to the Santa Maria landfill, the Buttonwillow landfill, or the Kettleman Hills landfill depending on whether waste characterization test results indicate the soil to be non-hazardous or hazardous.
6. Prior to backfilling with clean soil and re-grading, soil sampling will be conducted to ensure that all contamination above clean-up levels, as previously described, has been removed.


Quang Than
Lead Agency Contact Person

(714) 484-5352

Phone #


DTSC Branch Chief Signature

9/14/04
Date

John Scandura

DTSC Branch Chief Name

Chief, Southern California Operations
Branch, Office of Military Facilities

DTSC Branch Chief Title

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: _____



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

September 14, 2004

Ms. Beatrice L. Kephart
Chief, Restoration Program
30th CES/CEVR
806 13th Street, Suite 116
Vandenberg Air Force Base, California 93437-5242

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND
LIABILITY ACT (CERCLA) INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION WORK PLAN (IRA WP),
SITE 31, MISSILE LAUNCHER 576-C, VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE (VAFB),
CALIFORNIA

Dear Ms. Kephart:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have reviewed the replacement pages for the subject IRA WP, dated September 2004 and received this date. These replacement pages were submitted to finalize the IRA WP after the close of the public review and comment period. The IRA WP documents the planned removal and disposal of surface soil contaminated with arsenic, dioxins, and polychlorinated biphenyls at Site 31.

We do not have any further comments or concerns and hereby approve the Final IRA WP as written. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Quang Than of DTSC at (714) 484-5352 or Grant Heimbaugh of the RWQCB at (805) 542-4636.

Sincerely,

John E. Scandura, Chief
Office of Military Facilities
Southern California Branch

cc: See next page.

Ms. Beatrice L. Kephart
September 14, 2004
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cc: Mr. Grant Heimbaugh
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast, Region 3
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

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HQ AFSPC/CEVR
1520 East Willamette Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909-4554

Ms. Judith M. Keith
HQ AFCEE/ERD
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Mr. Matt Nusenow
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Office of Military Facilities
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